

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 19-32 and amend claims 1, 9, and 13. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An information distributor, comprising:

a processor;

a network receiver connected to said processor;

a transceiver system connected to said processor; and

a memory connected to said processor, wherein said memory includes:

network receiver communication stacks configured to direct said network receiver to ~~wirelessly~~ receive information from a structuring system via a system communication network; and

transceiver protocol stacks configured to direct said transceiver system to wirelessly transmit said information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of said transceiver system, wherein said transceiver protocol stacks include:

a first module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate a beacon;

a second module configured to direct said transceiver system to detect an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to said beacon, by said portable computing device; and

a third module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate, in response to said acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating said information received from the structuring system.

2. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, further comprising:
a battery connected to said processor.
3. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, wherein said system communication network is a paging network, and wherein said network receiver includes a radio frequency communication device configured to receive paging transmissions.
4. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, wherein said first module has:
a fourth module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate said beacon by boosting a base signal power level to increase transmission range of said beacon.
5. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, wherein said second module has:
a fifth module configured to direct said transceiver system to detect an amplitude-shift-keying modulated acknowledgement signal.
6. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, wherein said third module has:
a sixth module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate said broadcast by boosting a base signal power level to increase transmission range of said broadcast.

7. (Original) The information distributor of claim 1, wherein said beacon, said acknowledgement signal, and said broadcast are infrared signals, and wherein said transceiver system includes an infrared communication device.

8. (Original) The information distributor of claim 7, wherein said transceiver system includes:

an infrared transceiver configured to generate said beacon and said broadcast; and an infrared receiver configured to detect said acknowledgement signal.

9. (Currently Amended) An information distributor, comprising:

a processor;

a battery connected to said processor;

a network receiver connected to said processor, wherein said network receiver is switchable between a sleep mode with reduced battery power consumption and an active mode with increased battery power consumption;

a transceiver system connected to said processor; and

a memory connected to said processor, wherein said memory includes:

a first module configured to switch said network receiver from said sleep mode to said active mode to receive a first scheduled transmission from a structuring system via a system communication network, wherein said first scheduled transmission incorporates information;

a second module configured to switch said network receiver from said active mode to said sleep mode after receiving said first scheduled transmission; and

a third module configured to direct said transceiver system to transmit said information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of said transceiver system.

10. (Original) The information distributor of claim 9, wherein said memory further includes:
an initial schedule, wherein said initial schedule indicates a start of transmission time of said first scheduled transmission,

and wherein said first module is configured to switch said network receiver from said sleep mode to said active mode in accordance with said initial schedule.

11. (Original) The information distributor of claim 10, wherein said first scheduled transmission further incorporates an updated schedule indicating a start of transmission time of a second scheduled transmission from said system communication network, and wherein said first module is configured to switch, in accordance with said updated schedule, said network receiver from said sleep mode to said active mode to receive said second scheduled transmission.

12. (Original) The information distributor of claim 9, wherein said third module has:

a fourth module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate a beacon;

a fifth module configured to direct said transceiver system to detect an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to said beacon, by said portable computing device; and

a sixth module configured to direct said transceiver system to generate, in response to said acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating said information.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an information distributor, the method comprising:

receiving information from a ~~wireless source~~ structuring system via a system communication network; and

wirelessly transmitting said information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of said information distributor, wherein wirelessly transmitting said information includes:

generating a beacon;

detecting an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to said beacon, by said portable computing device; and

generating, in response to said acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating said information received from the structuring system.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving said information includes receiving a scheduled transmission from a system communication network, wherein said scheduled transmission incorporates said information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein generating said beacon includes boosting a base signal power level to increase transmission range of said beacon.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said acknowledgement signal is an amplitude-shift-keying modulated signal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein generating said broadcast includes boosting a base signal power level to increase transmission range of said broadcast.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said beacon, said acknowledgement signal, and said broadcast include infrared signals.

19. (New) A method of operating an information distributor, the information being switchable between a sleep mode with reduced battery power consumption and an active mode with increased battery power consumption, the method comprising:

switching the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode to receive a first scheduled transmission incorporating information from a structuring system via a system communication network;

switching the information distributor from the active mode to the sleep mode after receiving the first scheduled transmission; and

transmitting the information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of the information distributor.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

switching the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode in accordance with an initial schedule indicating a start of transmission time of the first scheduled transmission.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the first scheduled transmission further incorporates an updated schedule indicating a start of transmission time of a second scheduled

transmission from the structuring system via the system communication network; and further comprising:

switching, in accordance with the updated schedule, the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode to receive the second scheduled transmission.

22. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

generating a beacon;

detecting an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to the beacon, by the portable computing device; and

generating, in response to the acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating the information received from the structuring system.

23. (New) A computer-readable medium for operating an information distributor, the computer readable medium comprising:

a first module for receiving information from a structuring system via a system communication network; and

a second module for wirelessly transmitting the information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of the information distributor, wherein the second module is adapted to:

generate a beacon;

detect an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to the beacon, by the portable computing device; and

generate, in response to the acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating the information received from the structuring system.

24. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the first module is adapted to receive a scheduled transmission incorporating the information from the structuring system via the system communication network.

25. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the second module is adapted to boost a base signal power level to increase transmission range of the beacon.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the acknowledgement signal is an amplitude-shift-keying modulated signal.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the second module is adapted to boost a base signal power level to increase transmission range of the broadcast.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the beacon, the acknowledgement signal, and the broadcast include infrared signals.

29. (New) A computer-readable medium for operating an information distributor, the information being switchable between a sleep mode with reduced battery power consumption and an active mode with increased battery power consumption, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a first module for switching the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode to receive a first scheduled transmission incorporating information from a structuring system via a system communication network;

a second module for switching the information distributor from the active mode to the sleep mode after receiving the first scheduled transmission; and

a third module for transmitting the information received from the structuring system on demand to a portable computing device located within transmission range of the information distributor.

30. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the first module is adapted to switch the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode in accordance with an initial schedule indicating a start of transmission time of the first scheduled transmission.

31. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the first scheduled transmission further incorporates an updated schedule indicating a start of transmission time of a second scheduled transmission from the structuring system via the system communication network; and wherein the first module is adapted to:

switch, in accordance with the updated schedule, the information distributor from the sleep mode to the active mode to receive the second scheduled transmission.

32. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising:

a fourth module for generating a beacon;

a fifth module for detecting an acknowledgement signal generated, in response to the beacon, by the portable computing device; and

a sixth module for generating, in response to the acknowledgement signal, a broadcast incorporating the information received from the structuring system.